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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 17. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below include a new subprogramme 17.12, Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development, under programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The inclusion of the new subprogramme responds to a number of resolutions by the General Assembly (in particular resolution 52/100) and agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council calling for mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

5. The proposed revision was reviewed by ECLAC at its twenty-seventh session, convened in Aruba from 11 to 16 May 1998.

A. Programme

Paragraph 17.3 *Add* a new subparagraph (g) as follows:

"(g) Contributed to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into major aspects of economic, social and political activity of the countries of the region."

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B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 17.5 Social development and social equity

Paragraph 17.11 *Delete* subparagraph (d) and *renumber* the subsequent subparagraph accordingly.

Subprogramme 17.11 Subregional activities in the Caribbean

Paragraph 17.23 After paragraph 17.23, *insert* the following:

"*Subprogramme 17.12 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development*

"17.24 Although the status of women has improved considerably in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past few years in terms of access to public education, health services and participation in the labour market, significant obstacles still remain to the full involvement of women in regional development and, more specifically, in the decision-making process in their respective societies. The problems and challenges posed by the need to improve the status of women in the region have been a focus of attention and efforts for the member States and secretariat of ECLAC for many years. A clear consensus is now emerging in the region as to the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective into all major aspects of economic, social and political activity. As part of that undertaking, ECLAC has been called upon to play an active role in promoting the necessary courses of action to catalyse the process.

"17.25 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Women and Development Unit is responsible, are as follows:

"(a) To contribute to the operational consolidation and strengthening of institutional mechanisms that promote the full involvement of women in regional development. To that end, the ECLAC secretariat is expected to play an active role in supporting regional mechanisms for consensus-building in relation to gender equity such as the regional conference on women and its presiding officers. In addition, collaboration with governmental offices for women's affairs will be strengthened in areas such as the supply of gender-related information and the provision of training on substantive, methodological and logistical matters, with a view to enhancing their institutional, human resource development and inter-sectoral coordination capabilities so as to enable them to meet the increasing demand for their services;

"(b) To expand knowledge on gender-related issues in the region by promoting and supporting analytical research activities conducted by the countries of the region on priority issues relevant to the full integration of women into development and to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into all major fields of economic and social activity. Those issues are defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001. To that end, the secretariat plans to carry forward and expand its research

work on gender issues. It will also contribute to the shaping by consensus and consolidation of a regional position on gender issues in international debates within the United Nations system;

"(c) To guide and focus the substantive efforts of the units of the ECLAC system to mainstream the gender perspective in all their programmes and projects, especially in technical cooperation activities for development provided by ECLAC to its member States. To that end, emphasis will be placed on putting into place procedures for systematic coordination of substantive tasks with the efforts undertaken by the other organizational units of ECLAC to design and apply gender-sensitive methodological tools. An effort will also be made to strengthen inter-agency coordination on gender issues, in particular with the organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system that are active in the region."

C. Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 17.12 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development

Add reference to the following resolutions:

General Assembly resolutions

50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
51/69	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1997/17	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action
1997/54	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of reform of the United Nations
1997/61	Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system